MARYLAND GAZETTE.

THURSDAY, APRIL 11, 1776

To CATO, CASSANDRA, *and all the writers on the independent controversy.*

GENTLEMEN *

THOUGH it might be deemed absolutely necessary to suppress all publications, which tend to disunite the colonies, in their present spirited opposition to a cruel and unnatural attack from the people of England; yet, as the question of *independency* has been lately started, in a pamphlet entitled *Common Sense*, and supported by a variety of subsequent authors, I confess I was much pleased on the appearance of a writer on *the other side* of the question; for as I have no other view, than *peace* and *happiness* for myself and posterity, I was determined to give an earnest attention to the arguments on both sides. It is no matter, with me, whether I live under an emperor, a pope, a bashaw, a king of England, or a republic, provided I can be convinced, by *irresistable arguments*, that such or such a state contained the greatest quantity of happiness for the people at large, and for individuals in particular; for as I am in the situation of 99 out of every 100 in the world, who have no expectations of ever ascending into office, and riding upon the top of the machine, and have only to expect to contribute my proportion of labour to wheel it along, I therefore think it *my* business, as well as *my fellow labourers*, to see that it is so constructed, as to move with as little labour as possible, and the machinery so contrived as to be the least liable to get out of order in the variety of rough and smooth roads through which we must inevitably pass.---Now taking it for granted, that the machine *must* necessarily be kept in proper motion, I conclude, we are not to consult the ease and convenience of the *riders*, but that of the *draughts-men*, who being the *majority*, and giving motion to the machine for their own emolument (I know critics the simile wont run upon all fours, but I shall nevertheless stick to it till you offer me a better) I say, we move it along for *our own* emolument; and if the riders should insist on having it built, to contain only a single chair for a crowned head, or to spread a larger floor over our heads to support a commonwealth, *we* who *pull*, and not *they* who *ride*, ought to be the judges of the matter; for that some *must ride*, and that some *will ride*, in every community on the face of the earth, must be granted me; therefore, all I have to consider, with the rest of my brethren on the ground, is to attach myself to that *machine* or (if you wont let me pursue the simile) to that *form of government* which will afford me the most ease and give me least pain.

People in general know so little of the different movements of a state and the complicated connexions and dependencies on the other powers of the world, that they are almost unequal to the task of forming a proper judgment of the fitness or unfitness of this or that mode; for this reason it gave me great pleasure to think I was now about to have the matter laid before me in an *open* and *candid* manner, that I and the rest of my unlettered brethren might judge for ourselves. The writer signed Cato, I should have liked much better, had his actions corresponded with his declarations---says he, "nor need "any person be alarmed; for an *indecent* nor *angry* expression, shall not dishonour my pen, nor yet a single "sentiment which is not calculated to cement all parties in the province, upon safe and popular grounds, "more firmly than ever, in executing the resolves of "the congress, and maintaining American liberty"---had this *decency* prevailed in Cato's breast, why did he, a few lines before, charge the commentators on the conduct of the assembly, with "*scurrilous misrepresentations?*" *Decency* and *scurrility* can certainly have no possible connexion---and unhappily for him, in his second letter he proceeds to term a writer, who stiles himself Cassandra --- "an *enthusiast*, a *madman*, and a *barbarian*." Language of this kind, can be of no real use to men who are searching for truth, and I will take the liberty to request Cato, in his future essays, to keep up to the *decency* he professed to set out with. I could have wished to have passed *Cassandra* unnoticed on this head; but as *he* also has given too much reason for censure, I will just make free to say, that his arguments have acquired no force with me, by directing *personal* attacks on Cato, and endeavouring to point out the real man to the public; nay, by introducing the very name of a private gentleman into his essays, and obliquely glancing at him as the writer of Cato's letters. I am sensible it is so guarded, that Cassandra may plead off, and declare, if he pleases, that he had no such person in view; and Cato might find it difficult to disprove his sincerity. Cassandra may also assert, where he hints at the danger which Cato runs of "too far provoking the majesty of "the people by the bold flourishes of a pen which pays "no respect to truth, lest he may find it expedient to "end his days on the principles of *dependency*," that he meant no such thing as the threatning Cato with the chance of being hanged by a mob; though his marking the word "*dependency*" in italics, will certainly convey that idea to many minds.---Now gentlemen, with all due respect to you both, I would wish you to avoid *indecency* and *personality*: however sharp your minds may be set against each other, upon a supposition that you have got at the secret of names on both sides, I would request you to consider, that though you are both volunteers, yet you are in some measure accountable to the public.---If two advocates, pleading a cause of great importance, before a learned court, and an intelligent jury, were to make use of illiberal reflections upon each other's characters, and rip up a long list of charges of fraudulent designs and wicked practices, would not both court and jury think themselves grossly insulted, and would not such advocates deserve the severest censure from the bench?---Be pleased to remember, gentlemen, *you are pleading at the bar of the public, upon a cause of greater importance than ever came before any tribunal on earth*, no less than whether it is *expedient or inexpedient to make a total separation in government between the new and the old world*. Do you think, gentlemen, that a thousandth part of your readers, either know, care for, or desire to know who are the writers on this popular subject.---If John a Nokes and Tom a Stiles should be fixed on as the authors in this city, and should hand forth to the public, every foible and unfavourable incident of each other's life, of what importance, think you, would this be to those who are strangers to them both.---If Kouli Khan's gardener's daughter had a child by the grand visir's brother, what has that to do with the revolution in Persia?---'tis the *matter* and not the *man* that the public are concerned with. If lord North himself was prisoner amongst us, and should issue forth from his confinement, daily lucubrations on the subject now before us, I would give them as earnest a reading, as if they flowed from the pen of a Camden or a Burke; and yet I am a zealous advocate against Great Britain in the present controversy; 'tis truth alone I am hunting for, and this I believe to be the case with nine-tenths of the people, therefore I beg you will behave like gentlemen to yourselves, and to the publick; canvass the matter *fairly, fully* and *freely*, and don't suppose yourselves of so much importance, as to think we shall be pleased with your calling off our attention from the grand question, to the unimportant discussions of the *characters* or *schemes* of either party.---I, with a great number of others, should be glad to see you enter *deeply* into the question, on both sides.---State the advantages of an independence---the benefits to be derived from a new mode of government; how it will affect *individuals*; the additional happiness and freedom it will produce, *particularized* in a number of *plain, clear* instances; for though I, and some others, might be satisfied with the general assertion, "that the state will be much benefited by the change," yet there is no gaining admission into *some* bosoms, but by *full* and *positive demonstration*; and the number of such is *very great*.---to make myself better understood, I mean thus---if A, being a shopkeeper in this city, having a tolerable stand for business, though at a distance from the market, was to be advised by B to remove his shop to the outskirts of the town, where he should be sure to make his fortune; A would naturally require of B *some proof* of its *probability*, as the proposal might seem a strange one; but if B, being in the secret, should inform him that the corporation had determined to remove the market to that very spot, A would not hesitate a moment about the matter; so with respect to *independence*, some people will be satisfied with *nothing short* of such *clear* and *demonstrative* evidence; you must tell them, also, of the particular *new trades*, which will be opened to us; the prices our goods will bear at *home*, to the *farmer*, and what they will bring at *such* and *such* ports, and how much those prices *exceed* what we have been used to get for them; at the markets we were allowed to trade to; in this you must *name* the articles the prices, and the places; you must then tell us, the advantages of buying linens, woolens, cottons, silks, and hard ware, in France; Spain and Portugal, and other countries in Europe, and how much cheaper they are than in England, and Ireland; in this too you must *name* the goods, the places, and prices; and whether these places will take in exchange, our *lumber*, our *naval stores*, our *tobacco*, *flax seed*, &c. &c. and what prices they will give; what credit it is customary for those several places to allow to foreigners on what we commonly call dry goods; for our country people generally requiring credit, the merchant-importer must have credit *too*, otherwise trade will be confined to a *few rich houses*, who will exact what prices they please, upon the farmer and consumer. Next you must shew, that the charge of supporting government will be *less*, in a state of *independence*, than it hath been heretofore, during a *connexion*; you must name the expences we *now* pay, and the expence we shall *then* pay; you must give an estimate of the charge of supporting such an *army and navy*, in time of peace, as may always preserve the peace; there are many who wont be satisfied, with your telling them, that "a well regulated militia will save all the expence arising on the score of an army," say they, a man's time and labour, when he musters, will always be the same to him, as *money paid*, and that therefore you must fix the *number of men* that are to be enrolled *every year*, and the *number of times* they shall appear; for instance, if in Pennsylvania 25,000 should muster eight times in the year, at 2s. 6d. per day, it would amount to £.25,000, which would be just equal to the present 1s. 6d. tax on all the estates in the province; if they are to receive *no pay* it will nevertheless be a *cost* to them, *equal to that sum*; if they *are to be paid* the amount of this tax should certainly be estimated, because it must be paid by the community at large in every province, in proportion to the numbers so enrolled as a militia. The expence of building a sufficient fleet should also be ascertained, and also the number of ships and men necessary to be kept in *constant pay*, as guarda costa's, occasional convoys, or dispatch vessels, conveying ambassadors to the different ports in Europe, and you must also estimate the annual expence of watching, and keeping those vessels in repair, which are laid up; also the expences of maintaining in every court of Europe ambassadors, consuls, messengers, spies, and even bribe money, for intelligence of the designs of their respective cabinets;---also the expences of the *fleet and army* in *time of war*; for we may reasonably expect to share the same fate of other nations, and of being sometimes unfortunately engaged in war, with some troublesome ambitious prince or other; perhaps they may undertake to stop our trade up the Streights into the Mediterranean, or up the north seas, to Holland, Denmark, Norway, Sweden and Russia, we must then either GIVE IT UP, OR FIGHT FOR IT, or pay some SUBSIDY to a foreign power for protection in those seas---the expences in any, or all, of those cases, you should give to us---also in what proportion the value of our estates in America will encrease, so as to defray the necessary charges of government, taking for granted, that an 1s. 6d. tax in the pound, on *all taxable estates in America*, does now yield 533,333 dollars, being rather more than *half a million*; which is calculated *thus*; Pennsylvania is rated by the congress to pay about *one eighth* of all the expences of the united colonies; and as a tax of 1s.6d. in the pound in the said province, nearly about £.25,000---we may suppose, an 1s. 6d. tax upon the united colonies, will yield just *eight* times as much, which is £.200,000 our currency or 533,333 dollars per annum. Lastly you are to consider, after all things are candidly stated, whether the sums annually raised on the one hand to protect ourselves, and the absolute gain in trade (over and above what we used to make) on the other hand, *do* or *do not* render it most for our interest to separate from Britain.

On the part of those who contend for a *reunion*, they must shew what are the advantages that result from such a connexion; what were the customary expences of government in America, *before* the present rupture; what are the exclusive privileges *we* derive from exporting goods to Great Britain; whether there are acts of parliament in favour of the colonies, to the prejudice of other nations, and which we reap the sole advantage of---and whether these are equivalent to any loss we may sustain, by having our trade confined to them; whether our trade is not limited to our great disadvantage; you are to particularize the ports we may trade to, under the old regulations; and the different articles of America, which we may carry directly to foreign ports, you must also shew that the principal part of the goods we import from England and Ireland could not be supplied us upon as good terms from any other country, and that those nations, with whom we might incline to trade, would not grant us bounties upon *naval stores*, and sundry other articles in the same manner as England does, the amount of which annually paid to the colonists, you should sum up. You must also shew cause (if you can) why America ought not to take credit to herself, for all the taxes paid by the English manufacturers, before they send their goods to the colonies; it being generally granted, that the consumer ultimately pays all charges; you must also shew, whether *taxes* on goods imported into America from *Holland*, *France* or *Spain* (where imposts are very heavy) are or are not added to the cost of the said goods, in the same manner as we reckon them on English goods. Also whether the long established credit our American merchants have obtained in England, in the *interior* part of the kingdom, with the *original manufacturers*, cannot be as well accomplished in the *new* countries we may go to; or whether we must take *their* goods, from merchants at the several *out-ports*, with all the *middle men's* or intervening dealers profit added to them; and if we should obtain credit at such places for *twelve months*, as in England, what will be the *advance* which a *Frenchman*, a *Dutchman*, or a *Spaniard*, will chuse to put on his goods, as an equivalent, for the *risk* which he will suppose himself to run, by trusting *strangers*. Whether it is not a general established custom with all trading nations to trust foreigners, with whom they have no legal or political constitutional connexion, as freely as their own subjects in distant parts of the world; if this is *not* generally the case, you should shew, why America can't make *treaties* with such powers, in order to obtain credit, either by pledging to them the *estates* of the *community* at large, to make good deficiencies that might happen by *individuals* failing, of neglecting to pay such foreign debts, or by such other means as the American states might think fit to offer. You should also shew, whether the low price of goods, for many years past, was owing to the smallness of the *demand*, or to the *great quantities* brought to market, or to the *reasonableness* and *moderation* of the importing merchants; and whether, if France, Spain and Holland should refuse to *give credit* to every young merchant going out for a cargo, with a tolerable recommendation, as the traders in England have been accustomed to do, I say, it this should be the case, and the importation should fall *wholly* into the hands of a *few rich merchants*, why might not some mode of restriction be entered into for preventing the exorbitant exactions they might be guilty of, to the great injury of the consumers? You must also convince the farmer, if he bought his goods as low as formerly, occasioned by a re-union with Great-Britain, that he would also have the same advantages of shipping off his produce, which he has been used to, without any restriction laid on our trade that might lower the price when he brought his crops to market. You must also point out what advantage it would be to England to have *tobacco*, once more exported to them; and whether *this*, among other considerations, would be any inducement for them to offer us better terms. Some might possibly think that, nationally speaking, the being deprived of an expensive luxury, would be rather a *gain* than a *loss*; for though the tax on this article may be rated at 400,000 l. per annum, yet it is wholly paid by themselves as well as the neat cost of the tobacco. The public funds would indeed be *losers*, but the people would be *gainers*, in a sum just equal to the neat amount paid to the American planter; therefore you must shew

* CASSANDRA *will please to excuse the appellation of* Gentlemen, *for as* Phœbus *decreed that the* Prophetess *could never be credited, I am under the necessity of disbelieving that the modern* CASSANDRA *has* Lady.

other reasons why England would [illegible]
for the sake of reconciliation; and before this point is settled, you must convince us, that the people of England are not *gainers* by our *contraband trade* to the West-Indies; for as the large quantities of rum and sugar which we *formerly* imported from the islands, will now be sent to England, the price to the consumer *there* will be considerably abated; of course the quantity used by the lower class of people, will be encreased, and as these articles pay very high duties, the *revenue* will be capitally enlarged; and it may be supposed to have this further effect; the great tracts of ground hitherto occupied in England, for raising *grain*, purely to distil *spirits*, will in a great measure be deprived of their object, by the plenty of rum carried in from the West-Indies; and as a total stop is put to the exportation of tea, it may probably fall so low in England as, together with the low price of sugar, to make it a very general diet, morning and night, for the lower class of people; thus drinking foreign spirit, and making part of their meal of foreign produce, the land which was before employed in *those* services may be spared for *raising provisions to ship to the West-Indies*, where they will be sure to come to a good market, as long as *we* with-hold our trade thither; —therefore you must shew some substantial reason for your opinion that it is the interest of England to wish *our* trade with the West-Indies restored to its old state; for if England can now buy her *sugar and rum cheaper*, and sell her *grain higher* than formerly, why should she wish to re unite with us on this score? A full reply to this suggestion is expected. You must also prove that England, on a re-union, would grant us such a protection as would secure our property in any part of the world; and that on our complaining to their court of seizures or detainer of our vessels, by the Russians, Normans, Swedes, Danes, Hamburghers, Dutch, French, Portuguese, paniards, the states of Medina, Tuscany, Venice, Rome, Geneva, Courland, Grecian, Turkish, or piratical states &c. &c. that they would demand instant satisfaction and restitution for us as is usual with their own ships, and all this without bringing us in for any share of the expences. Business of this kind took up a great deal of the attention of the *Common-wealth* of England; their vessels being frequently *detained* and *insulted*, but by the spirited conduct of the Protector, justice was always obtained:—It is therefore your part to shew, that, on a re-union, the king of Great-Britain would take as ample care of the Americans, in such cases, as Cromwell did of British property; or if a re-union should *not* take place, you are to point out sufficient reasons to justify you in the supposition, that America has not, or may not, have a naval power competent to the task of doing herself justice. You must also shew, in case of a re-union that England would not call on us for a share of the expences attending a compact with Russia or other European princes, in order to keep up the balance of the protestant power against the Roman Catholic states, thereby preventing popery from over running the world. And you must lastly shew, that by a reconciliation on *constitutional principles* we shall return to the *free-money-getting trade we formerly enjoyed*, and that we shall have it *enlarged* to us upon a grand national scale, without any regard to the private emolument of *this* or *that* party; but upon principles of the general interest of the whole empire, without our paying any taxes for the support of government, more than what we have been used to (the debt arising from the present dispute only excepted.) That the administration of justice, and security of property will be as upright and safe as heretofore; and that the *present happiness* and *future liberty* of America would be as *well maintained* in a re-union as by a separation.

These are heads, which I would wish to see separately, and largely discussed; and I intreat you gentlemen, to pursue the subject with calmness and temper. Stick to the *matter*, and neglect the *man*; it imports not, *who* is the *writer*, but *all* are eventually concerned in the *cause*. I shall read your controversy with great attention, and so will thousands besides me; and if, upon an impartial hearing, it shall appear to be for the real interest of America, to cut the gordian knot and establish *independence*—I declare, with the utmost *sincerity* and *solemnity*, that I will give it my *hearty concurrence*.

Should curiosity (agreeable to the fashion of the times) tempt some readers to desire a knowledge of the writer of this essay, they may be informed, that, his fortune, his connexions, and every thing he holds dear, give him a deep interest in the happiness of America; that his abilities to serve his country, rise no higher than to occupy the station of an *honest man* and *quiet citizen*, and most happily for him, he has never been prompted by ambition to quit his post; being simply and truly

A COMMON MAN.

LETTER I.

To CATO.

TO be *nobly wrong* is more manly than to be *meanly right*. Only let the error be disinterested---let it wear, *not the mask*, but the *mark* of principle, and 'tis pardonable. It is on this large and liberal ground, that we distinguish between men and their tenets, and generously preserve our friendship for the one, while we combat with every prejudice of the other. But let not Cato take this compliment to himself; he stands excluded from the benefit of the distinction; he deserves it not---and if the sincerity of disdain can add a cubit to the stature of my sentiments, it shall not be wanting.

It is indifferent to me who the writer of Cato's letters is, and sufficient for me to know, that they are gorged with absurdity, confusion, contradiction, and the most notorious and wilful falshoods. Let Cato and his faction be against independence and welcome; their consequence will not *now* turn the scale: but let them have regard to justice, and pay some attention to the plain doctrine of reason. Where these are wanting, the sacred cause of truth applauds our anger, and dignifies it with the name of virtue.

Four letters have already appeared under the specious name of Cato. What pretensions the writer of them can have to the signature, the public will best determine; while on my own part, I prophetically content myself with contemplating the similarity of their exits. The first of those letters promised a second, the second a third, the third a fourth, the fourth hath since made its appearance, and still the writer keeps wide of the question. Why doth he thus loiter in the suburbs of the dispute? Why hath he not shewn us what the numerous [illegible] *left* but he cunningly avoids the point. He cannot but discover the rock he is driving on. The fate of the Roman Cato is before his eyes: and that the public may be prepared for his funeral, and for his funeral oration, I will venture to predict the time and the manner of his exit. The moment he explains his terms of reconciliation the typographical Cato dies. If they be calculated to please the cabinet, they will not go down with the colonies; and if they be suited to the colonies, they will be rejected by the cabinet: the line of no-variation is yet untound; and, like the philosophers stone, doth not exist. "I am bold," says Cato, "to declare, and "yet hope to make it evident to every honest man, that "the true interest of America lies in *reconciliation* with "Great-Britain on *constitutional principles*"

This is a curious way of lumping the business indeed! And Cato may as well attempt to catch lions in a mouse-trap as to hope to allure the public with such general and unexplained expressions. It is now a mere bug-bear to talk of *reconciliation* on *constitutional principles*, unless the terms of the first be produced and sense of the other be defined; and unless he does this he does nothing.

To follow Cato through every absurdity and falshood in the compass of a * letter is impossible; neither is it *now* necessary. *Cassandra* (and I thank him) hath saved me much trouble; there is a spirit in his remarks which honesty only can inspire, and a uniformity in the conduct of his letter which the want of principal can never arrive at. Mark that Cato.

One observation which I cannot help making on Cato's letters, is, that they are addressed "*To the People of Pennsylvania*" *only*: in almost any other writer this might have passed unnoticed, but we know it hath mischief in its meaning. The particular circumstance of a convention is undoubtedly provincial, but the great business of the day is continental. And he who dares to endeavour to withdraw this province from the glorious union by which all are supported, deserves the reprobation of all men. It is the true interest of the whole to go hand in hand; and dismal in every instance would be the fate of that colony which should retreat from the protection of the rest.

The first of Cato's letters is insipid in its stile, language and substance: crouded with personal and private inuendos, and directly levelled against "*the majesty of the people of Pennsylvania*." The committee could only call, propose, or recommend a convention; but like all other public measures, it still rested with the people at large whether they would approve it or not; and Cato's reasoning on the right or wrong of that choice is contemptible; be ause, if the body of the people had thought, or should think, that the assembly (or any of their delegates in congress) by sitting under the embarrassment of *oaths*, and entangled with *government* and *governors*, are not so perfectly free as they ought to be, they undoubtedly had, and still have, both the *right* and *power* to place even the whole authority of the assembly in any body of men they please; and whoever is hardy enough to say to the contrary is an enemy to mankind. The constitution of Pennsylvania hath been twice changed through the cunning of former proprietors; surely, the people, whose right, power and property is greater than that of any single man, may make such alterations in their mode of government, as the change of times and things require. Cato is exceedingly fond of impressing us with the importance of our "*chartered constitution*." Alas! we are not now, Sir, to be led away by the jingle of a phrase. Had we framed our conduct by the contents of the present charters, we had, ere now, been in a state of helpless misery. That *very assembly* you mention hath broken it, and been obliged to break it, in almost every instance of their proceedings. Hold it up to the public and it is transparent with holes, pierced with as many deadly wounds as the body of M'Cleod. Disturb not its remains, Cato, nor dishonour it with another funeral oration.

(To be concluded in our next.)

* *The writer intended at first to have contained his remarks in one letter.*

To the PEOPLE of PENNSYLVANIA.

LETTER V.

IN my fourth letter, some notice was taken of the dangerous proposition held up to us by the author of *Common Sense*, for having recourse to foreign assistance, and mixing the virtuous cause of these colonies with the ambitious views of France and Spain, even allowing that they are either able, or that we could make it their interest to enter into a war with Great-Britain and her allies, on our account. History will scarce give us an example of any people that ever recurred to an expedient of this kind, without having their *allies* at last for their *masters*. The fatal consequences of hasty resolutions, in great questions, might be well illustrated by the conduct of the foolish *Danes*; who, to avenge themselves of their nobility, in one dreadful moment, made an irretrievable surrender of their own liberty, and that of their posterity, into the hands of a tyrant. And had I been disposed to work upon the passions, rather than address the reason of my readers, the mention which was made in my last of the arbitrary governments of France and Spain, their bloody massacres and unrelenting persecutions, gave me an opportunity of entering into descriptions which would have "harrowed up the very souls" of *Protestants* and *Freemen!*

The administration of Great-Britain itself, daring as they seem to be, have not yet dared to recur to the desperate measure of calling in foreign aid. But some of our best friends intimate that an example of this kind, on either side, would justify the like conduct on the other. A great majority of the patriotic freeholders of the county of Berks in England, nobly supporting our cause before the throne, compliment us upon this---that we have not thrown ourselves into the arms of other powers, and that "our petitions have *yet* appeared before no throne but that of Britain. Let not England (say they) set an example, which is but too easily copied, by drawing into a free country the insidious and mercenary aid of foreign forces, trained to the support of barbarous despotism. The moment that a great army of such, or of *any foreigners*, shall enter your *territories*, the liberties of your people are at an end---Strenuous as we are for the honour of our country, we cannot be forgetful of its peace and concord. It is therefore we abhor the idea of encouraging foreigners to make a prey of this nation, and its *dependencies*, under faction and sedition among ourselves."

It is but too reasonable, then, to conclude, that whichsoever side, Great-Britain or America, shall first call in foreign assistance, will not force the other into the same desperate measure. In either case, this devoted land would become one field of blood and carnage for a length of years; which, at last, it is apprehended, would only be dreadfully closed in our perpetual subjection and slavery to the victorious side, whether allies or foes! It is, indeed, impossible to describe the miseries of that country which is once made the seat of foreign wars. Torn in pieces by contending armies, subjected to the alternate ravages and oppressions of rival powers; the merchant, the farmer, the peasant, has nothing to call his own. Even the wife of his bosom, and the daughter of his affection, are not safe from the unholy violence of mercenary soldiery, rioting through every corner of a land not their own, insolent in victory, and barbarous in defeat.

Although we now sadly bleed under the cruel hand of an unjust administration, who have kindled up a most unnatural war among brethren in their own land; yet (God be thanked) that war hath not reached, and I trust will never be able to reach, much farther than our sea-shores. A nation cannot long continue totally blind to all its most essential interests. Our own virtue and virtue have always gone a great way to convince our oppressors of the inanity, as well as the impracticability, of their schemes to govern a great and distant country by force. Perseverance, on our side, will speedily accomplish the rest. Our friends in Britain, unbought by us, and uncorrupted by our foes, are yet of more worth to us than whole nations of foreigners, drawn in to our assistance by mercenary or interested views. If, by no precipitate or unnecessary measures, we forfeit the esteem of the former, and make them also enemies, we shall prevail by our united strength. The devices of those, who, for ambitious purposes, strive to divide a house against itself, will be finally confounded; and the whole family of Britons, on both sides of the Atlantic, may yet be bound together, by fresh ties of mutual love and interest---for many generations!

But, I repeat it once more---by the former measure of calling in foreigners to decide our quarrels, we shall bleed, not in a few parts only, but at every pore; and the present generation will not probably see the end of the contest. Would to heaven, that they who press such a measure, as being preferable to a reconciliation with our ancient friends, upon whatever terms, could but behold the face of *Poland*, and visit the scenes of havoc and desolation which mark the late footsteps of contending foreign powers in that country; or read the accounts of the like scenes in many parts of Germany! They would not then continue to urge such a measure, till they could clearly prove that the last necessity was come.

Let it not be said that I am here drawing a horrible picture to frighten this country into an absolute submission to Great-Britain. No. I persevere in my belief, that on our present plan of resistance, Britain can never force us either into submission or reconciliation, but upon such terms as the united wisdom of the colonies shall deem safe and honourable. But upon the other plan, it is much to be feared, that submission, as well as ruin, might be our lot; and were I disposed to give bad names to any persons, who may perhaps be honestly enquiring after our true interest in this contest, they who advise such a plan, and not Cato, might be called *inimical* to these colonies. Nor let it be said, that the wished for assistance is not that of armies, but of fleets for trade and commercial protection. Even supposing that to be the case, will the fleets of any power, who can look those of Britain in the face, be content just to take a peep at our fruitful shores, give us their protection, and then return quietly home? But the author of Common Sense (and 'tis him I am now answering) makes no such distinction: and speaks of the "assistance of *France* and *Spain*" generally---and that for the purposes of a total separation from Great-Britain---His words are these---

"It is unreasonable to suppose that France or Spain will give us any *kind of assistance*, if we mean only to make use of that assistance for the purpose of *repairing* the breach, and strengthening the connection, between Britain and America." That the assistance here meant is not confined to mere naval assistance, in the idea of some who are great advocates for this author's pamphlet, might have been easily gathered from their expressions, when we received the late accounts of the arrival of unusual numbers of troops in the neighbouring French West-Indies.---

But this only alarmed others the more; and I am well persuaded that this writer's idea is not yet adopted by many persons of much consideration in this country, much less by any public bodies. I consider it only as thrown out to collect the sentiments of America upon it, although I cannot but think it a dangerous as well as unseasonable question at this time, and could have been content that it had not been brought before the public. But since it hath been made a question, it ought now to be fairly discussed, for whatever we have left, worthy our attention as freemen, is all involved in this stake; and when important questions are put upon the footing, that if they are not answered, they are to be taken for granted, it becomes absolutely necessary to examine them.

For my part, the more I consider the matter (and I have long considered it impartially) the more I am persuaded that our political salvation can only be worked out by our own united virtue, and upon our own foundation. When it shall clearly appear that we can no longer stand upon this ground; when we shall be generally convinced, by better arguments than declamation, and the abuse of things venerable and ancient, that future connection with Great-Britain is neither possible nor safe; then we shall be fully *united* and prepared, at every risk, to pursue whatever measures the sense of the community, fairly collected, shall think necessary to adopt. But even then, before we launch forth, many domestic concerns are to be adjusted.

Under what form of government are we to consederate? How much of our ancient constitutions is to be preserved? Who is to settle our clashing territorial claims? In what cases are the jurisdiction and expences of these colonies to be joint or separate? On what terms are we to engage foreign alliances, and yet to secure our liberties in connection with them? Are the colonies to vote equally in determining these grand concerns? or is a new representation to be formed, in proportion to numbers and consequence?

I might [illegible] when the neceſſity comes, they will riſe thick enough upon us, and we muſt then encounter them all, for the ſake of AMERICAN LIBERTY; which I would never deſert but with my life. But I am ſure that the author of Common Senſe, who labours to prove that the *neceſſity is already come*, offers nothing on this head that can give much ſatisfaction to the public in general. Truſting, however, that in the preceding part of his work, he has levelled the Engliſh conſtitution to the duſt, together with all our American conſtitutions, which are formed on ſimilar models, and that he has thereby *led us paſt the Rubican*, he may flatter himſelf that we will the more readily follow his future direction, and adopt what plans he may offer. But I chuſe to examine for myſelf, and having diſpatched his main argument for *independence*, which he founds on the neceſſity of foreign aſſiſtance, I proceed to conſider ſome other parts of his work.

His firſt ſections on the origin of government and monarchy, appear to be the ſtrangeſt medley of inconſiſtencies and contradictions which were perhaps ever offered to the *common ſenſe* of any people, and calculated only to miſlead thoſe ſuperficial readers, who are content to believe as they go, without comparing one part of a writer's doctrine with another.

"Society, ſays he is produced by our wants, and government by our wickedneſs; the former promotes our happineſs *poſitively*, by uniting our affections; the latter *negatively*, by *reſtraining* our vices--Government, like dreſs, is the badge of loſt innocence; the palaces of *kings* are built on the ruins of the bowers of paradiſe."

If the author meant only by this to tell us, that if all men were perfectly virtuous, and followed the pure dictates of right reaſon, human governments would have been unneceſſary, then I could ſubſcribe to his doctrine and might have paid him a compliment for cloathing an old truth in a ſpruce metaphor. But if he meant to prove that *monarchies* were any more founded on the ruins of paradiſe than republics, he ought in conſiſtency with himſelf to have ſhewn us --that, after Adam was expelled from paradiſe, he and his deſcendents, as ſoon as they were "four or five" ſtrong, and "able to raiſe a tolerable dwelling in the wilderneſs"---were found erecting ſome ſort of palace for him as their king; and that, after this example, all future governments were *kingly*, in the firſt ages. But our author ſhews us no ſuch thing. On the contrary, when he ſpeaks of the manner of "peopling the world," and frames a government out of the ſtate of nature, the firſt idea he preſents us with is that of a pure republic.---

"Some convenient tree, ſays he, affords a *ſtate-houſe*, under the branches of which the *whole colony* may aſſemble to deliberate on public matters."---The ſame proceed, as their numbers increaſe, to improve this conſtitution, and deviſe checks, that "the *elected* may not form to themſelves an intereſt ſeparate from the *electors*"---On theſe checks ("not on the unmeaning name *king*) depends *the ſtrength of government and happineſs of the governed*."

How can this be reconciled to what follows? The author has told us that all government, "even at beſt but a neceſſary evil, promotes happineſs only negatively, by *reſtraining* (viz. the king) our vices; and in erecting his early republic, he contrives his checks ſolely; but (*ryjum teneatis!*) directly forgets himſelf and ſays that no power, *which needs checking*, can be from God." Thus, by his own argument, God has as little to do with the powers of government in the *republican* as *mixt* forms. But further, leaſt his readers ſhould alſo forget themſelves, and be carried away by his firſt aſſertion,-- that "the palaces of kings were built on the ruins of paradiſe;" he takes care to prove, and backs it with the authority of "ſcripture hiſtory, that in the early ages of the world there were no kings;" that the Devil himſelf, in thoſe ancient times, was but a dull fellow; and that, although "government by kings was his moſt proſperous invention for the promotion of idolatry," he was a long while in hammering it out; which is but a poor compliment to Satan's cunning! For being a king himſelf from the beginning, he might have hit upon it ſooner. But I leave our author to make his own apology to his infernal majeſty, if he be of his councils; for I have no buſineſs to interfere between them.

It is ſufficient to ſhew what uſe he makes of his *Common Senſe*, at the very outſet, in refuting his own firſt doctrine, and proving to demonſtration that inſtead of *palaces for kings, ſtate houſes* for *whole colonies* were built on the ruins of paradiſe; nay more, that theſe ruins, in the caſe of the Jews, were near three thouſand years toſſed up and down into various forms, before they were converted into *royal edifices!* That I have not miſrepreſented our author in this argument, his own words will ſhew. "Near three thouſand years paſſed away, from the Moſaic account of the creation, till the Jews, under a national deluſion, requeſted a king. Till then, their form of government (except in extraordinary caſes, where the Almighty interpoſed) was a *kind of republic*," &c.

He proceeds, in the next place, to perſuade us that he is as well acquainted with the ſecrets of *Heaven* as the devices of *Hell*, concerning the origin of kingly government; and that the Almighty conſented at laſt to this "moſt proſperous invention of Satan," in mere wrath and vengeance againſt the Jews, as a greater puniſhment for their ingratitude than could have been inflicted upon them by any other human form of government. There never was a greater perverſion of ſcripture than our author has been guilty of in his endeavours to eſtabliſh this part of his argument, as every man of common underſtanding, who has his bible in his hand, may eaſily perceive.

The bounds preſcribed for this letter will not ſuffer me, at preſent, to point out his miſrepreſentations, and to ſhew how he ſets himſelf up, not only againſt the plain letter of ſcripture, but the univerſal ſenſe of wiſe and holy men of every age. It is not conſiſtent with my principles to ſay one word in favour of the divine right of Kings; nor do I believe a word of what others have ſaid in its favour. As little do I believe what has been ſaid concerning the divine right of republics, or any other human forms of government. But the queſtion is, whether God hath particularly reprobated any of them? For my part, as the author has ſet me the example of examining ſcripture on this head, I cannot find any modern kings particularly rejected by Heaven, but MOUNSIEUR the KING of FRANCE. It is in the 38th chapter of Ezekiel; and I am ſure our author, who is ſo deeply verſed in ſcripture, could not have paſſed with this [illegible] that the application is more natural than any which he has made of the 8th chapter of the firſt book of Samuel.

Son of man, ſet thy face againſt MOUNTSIEUR (Heb. MOUNSIEUR, or MONSIEUR) *and propheſy againſt it* (Heb. *him*) *and ſay unto him, thus ſaith the Lord God: Behold O* Mountſier *or* Mounſier, *I am againſt thee---becauſe thou haſt had a perpetual hatred, and haſt ſhed the blood of the children of Iſrael* [that is, *the French proteſtants*] *by the force of the ſword---Therefore, as I live, ſaith the Lord God, I will prepare thee unto blood, and blood ſhall purſue thee---Sith thou haſt not hated blood, even blood ſhall purſue thee.---Thus will I make* MOUNTSIEUR, *or* MONSIEUR, *moſt deſolate*--becauſe *thou haſt ſaid theſe* TWO *nations, and theſe* TWO *countries* [here Britain and America are clearly pointed out] *ſhall be mine, and we will poſſeſs it--whereas the Lord was there*--as much as to ſay, you ſhall not have theſe two countries, *Monſieur!* the Lord intends them for his own uſe--they ſhall be *free proteſtant* countries.

The reader may peruſe and apply the remainder of the chapter which he may do as well as the author of *Common Senſe*; and, ſome may ſay, perhaps as well as

CATO.

CAMBRIDGE, *March* 25.

The freeholders and other inhabitants of the town of Bolton, qualified as the law directs, have been notified, by the ſelect-men to meet at the Rev. Dr. Chauncy's meeting houſe to morrow, to chooſe [illegible] for the year enſuing, and to act upon all [illegible] and things as may properly come [illegible]

The commiſſioners appointed by the court of Great-Britain, to treat with the colonies on the ſubject of ſettling the preſent diſputes, it is ſaid, ſailed from England about the 10th of January bound to Philadelphia. Some reports, by the laſt packet from England, ſay, large bodies of foreign troops may be expected; others ſay, none will come, the French king having declared to the Britiſh court his intention of taking an active part in favour of America, ſo ſoon as Great-Britain ſhall take into her ſervice any foreign troops.

NEW-PORT, *March* 25.

The miniſterial fleet on this ſtation, about a fortnight paſt, took a double decked brig in Narraganſet-bay, belonging to this place; they took off her dipper deck, and fitted her with 8 or 10 guns; and laſt Wedneſday and Thurſday the whole fleet, conſiſting of the ſhips Roſe, Glaſgow and Swan, two brigs of 8 or 10 guns each, 3 armed tenders, and a large tranſport now, ſailed on a cruiſe, and next day in the afternoon returned again, with two prize ſloops, both from Connecticut, one bound to the Weſt-Indies, and the other to the eaſtward, loaded with proviſions.

NEW-LONDON, *March* 22.

A veſſel has arrived here from South-Carolina, by whom we learn, that 3 or 4 Britiſh ſhips are at Georgia, who had landed 3 or 400 men, who joined the tories, and had drove the ſons of liberty out of the town (ſavannah,) but that ſome thouſands of men had marched from Charleſtown, to their aſſiſtance.

NEW-YORK, *April* 1.

Thurſday about one thouſand riſle men arrived here from Boſton; and Saturday laſt brigadier general Heath, with Sark's, Webb's, Bond's, Petterſon's and Greton's regiments, arrived here from the ſame place, by way of New-London.

Part of col. Dayton's battalion from Elizabeth-town, and ſeveral companies from Connecticut came to town laſt week alſo; ſo that we now have here about eight thouſand men.

April 3. By letters from Montreal we are informed, that the troops were coming in very faſt, and filing off for Quebec in great ſpirits, not doubting of being able ſhortly to reduce that place; as by deſerters daily coming out, their ſituation was known to be very bad, on account of fuel, &c. ſo that they are burning the lower town, in order to ſave the upper; and that many of the inhabitants are compelled, much againſt their will, to take up arms, and wiſh to be relieved.

On Saturday laſt arrived here from Cambridge the hon. brigadier general Heath, with about 3000 of the continental troops under his command. It is ſaid, that the hon. major general Putnam, is alſo on his march for this place with his brigade; and that the king's troops and fleet ſailed from Nantaſket laſt Thurſday.

The following is a true liſt of the ſtores, &c. left in Boſton by the miniſterial troops on evacuating that place.

100 pieces of cannon in the town, from 9 to 32 pounders.
100 ditto at the caſtle.
4 mortars, 13 and a half inches, two of them with beds weighing 5 tons each.
2500 chaldrons of ſea-coal.
25000 buſhels of wheat.
1300 buſhels of barley.
600 buſhels of of oats in one ſtore.
100 jars of oil, containing one barrel each.
150 horſes marked G. R.

A number of cannon and mortars have been ſince diſcovered in the water.

By a gentleman from New-London we are informed, that an expreſs had arrived to governor Trumbull, with an account of the ſurrender of Quebec to the continental forces.

Laſt night a number of our troops went and ſet fire to all the buildings on Hedlow's iſland, where the men of war were intrenching and fortifying it for an aſylum for the tory refugees, burnt and brought off all their intrenching tools with a large number of white ſhirts and great coats, &c. likewiſe an abundance of poultry of all ſorts; the Aſia fired on our people, but not one man either killed or wounded.

Laſt night a barge full of men [illegible] to be from the man of war, landed and endeavoured to ſet fire to the air furnace, but they were timely diſcovered before much damage was done.

The following odd affair happenned at Stratford on the 10th of March laſt: a child of Mr. Edwards, of [illegible] neighbourhood, and on the 17th, an hundred and ſeventy young ladies [illegible] themſelves into a battalion, and with fuſees conveniently accommodated a general and the other proper officers to lead them on; then the petticoat army marched in the greateſt good order to pay their compliments to THOMAS GAGE, and preſent his mother (the nymphs ought to have delayed this part of the buſineſs a few days, ſay our correſpondent) with a ſuit of tar and feathers; but THOMAS's fire having intelligence of their expedition, with its arms kept them from entering his houſe, ſo that the female ſoldier returned to head quarters, without effecting what they intended, and diſbanded themſelves.

PHILADELPHIA, *March* 27.

By a letter from Jamaica we learn, that the ſchooner Providence, capt. Smith, and ſloop Dove, Bull, of Rhode-Iſland, were taken by the Milſtone, the Polly, Sands, of New-York, by the Squirrel and the ſloop Betſy and Hannah, capt. Bell, of Virginia, with two ſchooners belonging to North-Carolina, were all taken off Cape Nichola Mole, loaded with meaſſes, &c. The captains of the veſſels taken were confined on board the flag ſhip at Port Royal, but they have within theſe few days moved for their habeas corpus, which has been granted, and they are now allowed to go about: there is no ſaying when the veſſels are to be libelled, the cuſtom-houſe officers and the captains of the men of war are likely to have ſome diſpute about theſe captures. The American houſes here are reſolved to give the captains of theſe veſſels every aſſiſtance.

By expreſs from Lewis-Town we learn, that on Monday evening a ſloop of war and her tender came into our capes.

Extract of a letter by the packet, Dec. 23, 1776.

"Lord George Germaine has inliſted himſelf into the miniſterial cauſe; he is eſteemed, in point of abilities, inferior to none in the nation (he is great in the *cabinet* than in the *field*) he appears ſanguine of ſucceſs, and declared in his firſt ſpeech as miniſter, that "ſuch terms ſhould be offered to America as ſhe might receive with ſafety, and ſuch as Great-Britain might offer without depreciating her dignity; if, after that, they ſhould continue rebellious, he pledged himſelf (vauntingly) to the houſe, that he would find men and money abundantly ſufficient to reduce them;"---he ſaid, "upon theſe terms he came into adminiſtration, and he was determined to act accordingly."

Extract of a letter from St. Euſtatia, March 26.

"The men of war are taking prizes daily. They [illegible] few days ago from Providence, Rhode-Iſland, [illegible] cargo of 3000l. on board. A gentleman in St. Euſtatia received a letter from his friend in Martinico the day before yeſterday, informing him of advice from France, that 36 ſhips of the line and frigates were waiting, all prepared for an expedition, but their deſtination was kept a profound ſecret."

By a letter, of the beſt authority, from Cambridge, dated March 25, 1776, we are informed, that the miniſterial troops have blown up, burnt and demoliſhed the caſtle totally; that they have been in Nantaſket road ever ſince their embarkation; their ſtay there is judged neceſſary to prepare for ſailing, as neither the veſſels themſelves, nor, as loaded, were fit for the ſea, being loaded in great haſte and diſorder; this account is confirmed by another letter, who ſays they have yards, booms, [illegible] fix. Some conjecture they mean to give the provincial troops a parting blow, as their whole force is now collected, 15 veſſels having arrived with troops from the Weſt-Indies ſince their flight from Boſton. Six regiments of the continental troops have marched to New-York; ten regiments of the militia were to be diſcharged the firſt of April. As ſoon as the fleet had ſailed from Nantaſket general Waſhington propoſed ſetting out for New-York. The provincial troops are now fortifying Fort-Hill, and demoliſhing the lines on Roxbury neck, which are a defence againſt the country only.

Extract of a letter from London, Dec. 14.

"In ſpight of the influence of addreſſes America gains friends every day, and I hope the ſpring may produce the olive-branch, inſtead of the deſtructive ſword, and that the intercourſe between America and England may very ſoon be eſtabliſhed on conſtitutional and laſting grounds."

WILLIAMSBURG, *March* 29.

There is a report that general Clinton is arrived at Cape Fear, North-Carolina, with the troops he brought with him from Boſton, and that he has been ſince joined by 12 or 1500 from England or the Weſt-Indies. We likewiſe hear that the provincial troops are in motion, and marching from all quarters to attack him; ſo that we may ſoon expect to hear of another battle in that province, which we hope will prove equally glorious to the American arms as that which was but a few weeks ago, ſo ſucceſsfully fought by the brave col. Caſwell.---The account of general Clinton's return from North-Carolina, and ſailing out of our capes again, was inſerted in the laſt Gazette from the information of ſome gentlemen from Hampton; the Kingfiſher, with a number of tenders, and ſome prizes they had taken, having been miſtaken for the Mercury frigate and the tranſports which went out with general Clinton, who, after ſending up the prizes to Norfolk, went out again upon another piratical cruiſe.

Advice was received, a few [illegible] that the continental fleet had taken and carried off from Providence, one of the Bahama iſlands, upwards of 100 pieces of cannon, and a ſmall quantity of gunpowder, with which they ſet ſail for the continent. The Engliſh governor, a little before the fleet's arrival, found means to ſend away a chief part of the ammunition, military ſtores, &c. &c.

This day his excellency CHARLES LEE, Eſq. major-general in the continental army, arrived at head quarters in this city, [illegible] the command of the Virginia troops, [illegible] by Colonel WOODFORD and LEWIS MORRIS, Eſqrs his excellency's aids de camp, his ſecretary, Mr. NOURSE, Monſ. LE BRUN, engineer, and the reſt of his ſuite.

Our repose which we have hitherto enjoyed, in preference to our neighbouring colonies, is at last disturbed; and we are now called forth to our defence. The alacrity with which our brave countrymen assemble, and the determination to fight, visible in every countenance, demonstrate, that if the enemy should be hardy enough to encounter them; we have reason to expect some wounds. The necessity of taking all imaginable care of those who may happen to be wounded, (in the country's cause) urges us to address our humane ladies, to lend us their kind assistance in furnishing us with linen rags, and old sheeting for bandages, &c. to be delivered either to Dr. Wiesenthal, Dr. Boyd, Dr. Craddock, Dr. Wallace in Annapolis, or any member of the committee.

ANNAPOLIS, April 11.

Prince-George's county, April 7, 1776.

On Wednesday the third instant died Mrs. Sim, wife of col. Joseph Sim of this county, of a very painful and lingering illness, which she supported with uncommon firmness and resolution. This lady possessed many virtues, accomplishments, and valuable qualities, in a very high degree: her disconsolate husband and children, and numerous relations and friends, are left to lament their loss.

To be sold to the highest bidder, April 20, 1776,

THE two following tracts or parcels of land, viz. lying and being in Prince-George's county: One tract or parcel of land called Dann, containing one hundred acres more or less; the other tract or parcel of land called the William and Mary, containing one hundred acres more or less, both adjoining each other. The premises consist of one dwelling house planked above and below, one kitchen, corn house, meat house, and tobacco house, and other necessary houses; likewise two apple orchards. It is very convenient for trade and fishing; it lays about three miles from Bladensburg and five miles to the Eastern Branch ferry, all which render it more valuable. The aforementioned tracts or parcels of land, belonging to the estate of Zachariah Scott, late of Prince-George's county, deceased, is now under a lease, and there are eight years of said lease to come. Any person inclinable to purchase may view the land before the day of sale, by applying to Roger Brook Beall, executor of the said Zachariah Scott's estate, and now lives on the land.

JEREMIAH SATCHWELL, in West-street, Annapolis, to the military gentlemen.

AS the use of arms is become absolutely necessary for the preservation of American liberty, this is to inform the above gentlemen, that he makes all sorts of silver and fine metal sword hilts; likewise cleans and repairs the same. Those gentlemen who please to favour him with their custom, may depend on having their work done with the greatest punctuality and at the most reasonable rate, which he hopes will give satisfaction to the public in general, having served a regular apprenticeship to the said branches in London.

N. B. All sorts of silversmiths work done also.

April 10, 1776.

CARELESS.

STANDS the ensuing season at Strawberry hill, within one mile of Annapolis, and will cover mares at six dollars the season, if pastured; four dollars, if not pastured; or two dollars, the single leap. The high bred horse Careless is a fine bay, rising five years, upwards of 14 hands 2 inches, and was got by col. Boytor's Fearnought; his dam by Dove, his grand-dam by Othello, his great-grand-dam by old Spark, out of the high bred mare Queen Mab, who was the dam of col. Hopper's Pacolet. Good grass for mares. Indian corn will be taken in payment at 2 s. 6 d. per bushel, delivered at Strawberry-hill before the first of July, by

5w THOMAS WILLIAMSON.

P. S. I will be answerable for no mares that may get away.

Bladensburg, April 1, 1776.

I HAVE for disposal, on very reasonable terms, a servant man, who has about three years to serve. He was bred a cutler, is an ingenious fellow in his business, and can do any country blacksmith's work. He might be very useful to any person in the gun or lock-smith business.

w3 JAMES HOGGAN.

Prince-George's county, April 1, 1776.

WAS found in the possession of one of my negroes, a jockey coat of double mill'd drab cloth, the collar lined with velvet, and the cape with shalloon the colour of the cloth. As I suspect the coat to have been stole, the person who has lost it, on proving his property and paying the charge of this advertisement, may have it by applying to

w2 THOMAS GANTT.

THERE is at the plantation of Theodorus Venables, living in Charles county, near Benedict-town, taken up as a stray, a young bay mare, with a star in her face, about thirteen hands high, paces naturally, but is not docked, nor has any perceivable brand. The owner may have her again on proving property and paying charges.

For apprehending a Runaway.

JAMES, a mulatto slave, sometimes known by the name of Vulcan, but commonly answers to the name of Buck, took an abrupt leave of his overseer last Wednesday, and has not yet returned. He is a dark mulatto, about 5 feet 9 inches high, strong made, sensible, artful, and deceptive in conversation, firm and daring in his efforts to perpetrate villainy, tho' of mild temper, and plausible in speech: he has frequently travelled through a considerable part of this and some part of the province of Pennsylvania; is well known, it is supposed, in the borough and county of Lancaster, and is acquainted with Philadelphia; may probably therefore re-visit those places. His working cloaths were a home manufactured long cloth waistcoat with sleeves, and breeches, yarn stockings, osnabrig shirt, and good shoes, nailed with bobs: he is possessed of and has taken with him a blue German serge coat, a green broad cloth vest, two pair of cotton and one pair of thread stockings, two white shirts ruffled at the breast, a good castor hat with band and buckle, a pair of good pumps, with a pair of double rimmed silver buckles. He has a mark of distinction, which from modesty, or some other motive, he is careful to conceal, one of his ears (but which is forgot) is remarkably less than the other. The above reward will be paid if he should be taken up out of the province, or 60 miles from Baltimore town in the province, and brought home; five pounds if at the distance of 40 miles, three pounds if 30, and forty shillings if 20 miles, with reasonable travelling expences, including the legal charge under the act of assembly, by

THOMAS JONES.

SIX DOLLARS REWARD.

STRAYED away from the widow M'Donall's, between Baltimore and Annapolis, on Thursday night the 13th of March, out of the fodder house, a bay horse, about 14 hands and an half high, paces, trots, and gallops, marked C S on his left shoulder. Whoever takes up said horse, and brings him to capt. Samuel Maynard's at Herring-Creek, or to William Hayes, Fell's Point, Baltimore, shall receive the above reward, and reasonable charges paid if brought home.

Just published, and to be sold at the Printing-office,

PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

CONVENTION

OF THE

PROVINCE of MARYLAND,

Held at the City of Annapolis, on Thursday the 7th of December, 1775.

Patuxent Iron Works, February 6, 1776.

BEING desirous of settling the estate of our father, RICHARD SNOWDEN, late of Patuxent Iron-Works, deceased, we request all such as are indebted to said estate to make immediate payment, as no longer indulgence will be given them. Also all persons that are indebted to the Patuxent Iron-Works Company, of more than twelve months standing, are requested to come immediately and make payment; and those who have it not in their power to make immediate payment, it is expected they will come and settle their accounts by note or bond. If the above requests are not complied with, we shall take such methods as will compel a settlement, without respect to persons, although it will be disagreeable to

tf SAMUEL and JOHN SNOWDEN.

FORTY DOLLARS REWARD.

Frederick county, Maryland, Halling's river, February 14, 1776.

RAN away from the subscriber, last night, two Irish servant men, both weavers by trade, viz. Christopher Warren, about five feet four inches high; had on, when he went away, a short pale blue coat, which has been turned, and is double breasted, with black horn buttons, and a pair of brown cloth trousers; he has short curled black hair, a very long nose which appears to lean to one side of his face, dark eyes, and a few blue spots in his face, which appear to be specks of gunpowder; he is about thirty-five years of age.——George Murdy, about twenty years of age, five feet eight inches high, fair complexion, gray eyes, streight black hair; had on, when he went away, two striped country cloth jackets, one pair of striped country cloth breeches. They took with them two horses, two saddles, and two bridles; one a roan horse with a black mane and tail, trots and gallops, branded on the near shoulder L F, about fourteen hands high, and goes dull on the road; the other a small bay horse about fourteen hands high, branded on the near shoulder O, paces and gallops, and shod before. Whoever takes up the said servants and horses, and secures them, so that the owner may get them again, shall receive the above reward, paid by

GEORGE ANELL.

N. B. It is probable they may have other cloaths with them, or get their own changed.

Maryland, Somerset county, Feb. 15, 1776.

THE visitors of Eden school, in the county aforesaid, hereby give notice, that they want a master for said school: Any person inclinable to undertake, that is properly qualified, and can come well recommended, is desired to apply as soon as possible. The master's salary in said school is one hundred and thirty pounds per annum, with diet, washing and lodging found.

Signed by request of the Visitors,

w6 HENRY LOWES

March 11, 1776.

WHEREAS the records of the commissary's office are removed to Upper Marlborough, by the direction of the Council of Safety for the province of Maryland, I am directed to give this public notice, that the common business of that office will from henceforth be transacted at that place.

And as the commissary's courts are by law appointed to be held at the city of Annapolis, where the same must indispensably be continued, the commissary general, anxious to relieve as far as in his power the difficulties arising to the people, from the removal of the records to such distance from the capital, hath resolved to attend at both places in every court week, which will be on the second Tuesdays of May, July, September, and November; and to that end, will hold his courts every second Tuesday in said months at the city of Annapolis, for the convenience of the inhabitants of the Eastern-shore, and others whom it may best suit. And he will from thence proceed on the Thursday to Upper Marlborough, there to sit during the remainder of the week for the dispatch of public business.

I also give notice, that for the greater ease and convenience of the inhabitants of Anne-Arundel county, who may have business with me as deputy commissary of that county, I shall give attendance every Tuesday at the house of Mr. Cornelius Garretson in the city of Annapolis for that purpose.

tf ELIE VALLETTE, register

Charles town, Cæcil County, March 19, 1776.

THIS day was committed to my custody, on suspicion of being a runaway, by the name of Andrew Sandford, an Irishman, about 25 years of age, 5 feet 9 or ten inches high, long black hair tied behind: has on a light coloured coat and waistcoat, brown cloth breeches, a half worn beaver hat, blue ribb'd yarn stockings, and old shoes. He says he has been three years in this country, and worked a considerable time as a journeyman barber with Mr John Jones in Philadelphia, and from last harvest until this time with Mr. Clements, barber in Baltimore-town. His master, if any, is desired to pay charges and take him away; and if any of the above gentlemen can make it appear that he is a freeman, he will be released according to law.

JAMES ORRICK, sheriff of Cæcil county.

Wanted immediately, delivered at the contractor's store in Annapolis,

A QUANTITY of potatoes, parsneps, carrots, beans, cockstone beans, or any kind of Indian peas, for which will be given the highest prices, by

ISAAC M'HARD,

for Mr. Robert CUMMINS.

Prince-George's county, March 18, 1776.

COMMITTED to my custody, as a runaway, a negro woman, who says her name is Judy, and that she belongs to Robert Gordon of Charles county. Her master is desired to pay charges, and take her from

2w RALPH FORSTER.

TO BE SOLD,

A VALUABLE tract of land, containing 280 acres more or less, situated upon Rock creek in Frederick county, within four miles of George town and eight of Bladensburg, 150 acres whereof are in wood, and the remainder inclosed by a good fence; there are about ten acres of the aforesaid land may be made good meadow with little trouble. I have likewise for sale 25 acres of land near or adjoining the town of Upper Marlborough, in Prince George's county, with good improvements thereon, and a valuable mill in good repair, and grinds all seasons. For terms apply to Robert Whitaker near the aforesaid town, or William Belt in Frederick county.

Annapolis, March 26, 1776.

RAN away from the subscriber, an indented servant lad, named Edward Burford, born in Hampshire, about five feet two inches high, fair complexion and brown hair: had with him two cloth coats, one a London brown, the other of coarse light coloured cloth with waistcoat of the same, much worn, good buckskin breeches, ribb'd worsted stockings and English made shoes. He is very fond of liquor, and can give no better reason for his elopement, than that he often merited chastisement and never received it. Should he be taken ten miles from home I will give 20 shillings reward on his return.

J. CLAPHAM

ABRAHAM CLAUDE,

WATCHMAKER, JEWELLER, and SILVERSMITH,

Opposite Mrs. Johnson's tavern, ANNAPOLIS,

BEGS leave to acquaint the public in general, and his friends in particular, that he still continues to carry on the aforesaid trades in all their various branches, and at the most reasonable rates; also that he cleans and repairs all sorts of fire-arms, small-swords, hangers, and cutlasses: He also makes hocks for swords in the neatest and most approved manner.

N. B. He has several gross of hooks and eyes to dispose of cheap.

ANNAPOLIS: Printed by FREDERICK GREEN.